

## Friends of the San Antonio Public Library

Volume 15, Number 2

March • April • 2003

Editor: Marti Nodine

### From the President



Dear Friends,

We have a few hard issues in front of us in the coming year. The first is to address the "Poster." I would like to see the Friends buy a poster and have it framed for their Branch Library. For those branches without a Friends Group, we have other ideas and they are being worked out. A related idea is to find volunteers to sell the posters at the different events in the coming year. I should have a list of times and places at our next Board Meeting. I hope that each of our Friends has at least one person from their branch at this meeting. I would like to see these posters bought and framed and in your library by the time your library has its Birthday Party. So, Friends, you need to check with your branch and find out when your library branch is having its party. I will have a full update on the number of posters sold and for what amount and how many are on hand by our next Board Meeting. I do not have all the figures, so I do not want to put them into this newsletter, but we will set something up so we can get that information into future newsletters.

The next issue that we really need to work on is the release of the 2003 Telecommunications Infrastructure Funds or TIF from the state government. Please find the form letter within this newsletter, suitable to mail to your Governor, Senators, and Representatives about saving this fund and "unfreezing" the 2003 funds as soon as possible. We need to start a letter-writing campaign to let our government know how we feel about this issue.

*Sincerely,*

**Barbara Isner, President**

*Friends of the San Antonio Public Library*

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### Book Cellar Vols Needed for Mammoth Annual Sale

It's that time of year again – when volunteers and customers are needed for the Friends' big Annual Book Sale.

The three-day sale is scheduled for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 28–30. Sale hours will be 9 AM–4 PM Friday and Saturday and 11AM to 4 PM Sunday. Like last year, the location will be the Book Cellar, and the adjoining outdoor patio in the Central Library basement at 600 Soledad. Books will be displayed on tables under canopies on the patio as well as inside the store.

The sale is a huge project that requires scores of volunteer hours and a major fund raiser for the Friends. In addition to the three sale days, workers will be needed on Wednesday and Thursday, March 26–27, to help sort and display books, and on Monday, March 30, to help pack away the leftovers. The sale is organized by the Book Cellar Committee, chaired by Jim Wogstad, but it requires a wider circle of workers than the Book Cellar volunteer staff alone.

If you can help during any of the following hours, please call Book Cellar Manager **Karen Atkinson** at 227-9519 and tell her when you can volunteer.

- Wednesday, March 26, 9 AM - 5 PM
- Thursday, March 27, 9 AM - 5 PM
- Friday, March 28, 9 AM - 4 PM
- Saturday, March 29, 9 AM - 4 PM
- Sunday, March 30, 11 AM - 4 PM
- Monday, March 31, 9 AM until we're finished.



The sale will include children's books, adult fiction and non-fiction, and reference books. Most prices will range from 25 cents to \$1. Please tell your friends and neighbors about this great opportunity to buy good books at bargain prices. And please come help with the sale.

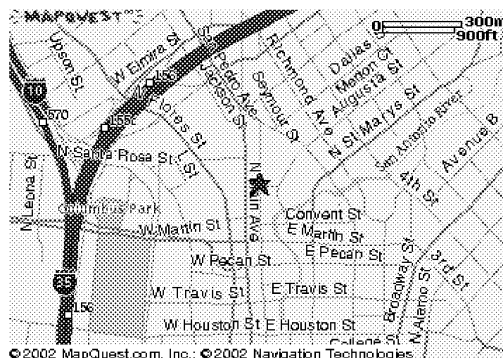
*Pat Konstam, Book Cellar correspondent*

### Map to Central Library

**Central Library Auditorium • 600 Soledad • (210) 207-2500**

**Directions:** 600 Soledad Plaza, south of Romana Plaza. Site bounded by Soledad St. to the west, Navarro St. to the north,

Augusta St. to the east, and Giraud St. to the south. Central entrance off of Soledad with direct access to city-operated parking garage. One hour free parking with validation.



## Friends of the San Antonio Public Library

### Annual Board Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2003

President Barbara Isner called the meeting to order, and the Acting Secretary took roll and determined that a quorum was present. The minutes of the last Board Meeting, as printed in the newsletter, were corrected and accepted.

Having received printed copies of the Nominees for the FOS-APL Board, as well as for the Officers of the Board, the membership was asked to review the list as submitted by Nominations Committee Chair **Marti Nodine**. She corrected the impression that her fellow committee members were appointed by Isner and acknowledged the work by **Cathy Dean** in not only agreeing to serve on the committee herself, but also in persuading several Friends to fill out the committee in order to conform to the By-laws. Marti noted that she had been unable to fill the office of Secretary and, therefore, opened the process to nominations from the floor. No one responded to the challenge. Therefore, it was moved and seconded that the slate of candidates be accepted by acclamation. The motion carried by voice vote.

Following the business meeting, **Heywood "Woody" Sanders**, director of the graduate degree program in public administration at UTSA, gave an address entitled, "Libraries, Today and Tomorrow." Sanders reviewed the history of the San Antonio Public Library system during the last 100 years, from its inception at the Hertzberg site, to the Market Street site to the following site of our current modern facility. He also detailed the acquisition of our Branch Libraries, the locations of which were determined more by parsimony than need. As family ranches were dissolved into housing tracts, retail centers, and public use areas, many sites were donated to the city rather than being selected as part of a systematic plan. Sanders also called into question the degree of support that our city government has held for the Public Library system over the years, in view of the lack of consistent and adequate funding. He challenged the Friends to view the importance of the library in the development of stronger neighborhoods and of an educated workforce, both of which might well lead to greater prosperity and a higher quality of life for more San Antonians. Sanders' remarks were very well-received by the Friends.



Heywood "Woody" Sanders

*Respectfully submitted,  
Marti Nodine, Acting Secretary*

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**DO PLEASE JOIN OUR LETTER-WRITING  
CAMPAIGN TO RELEASE TIF FUNDING!!!**

## FRIENDS OF THE SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2003-2005

#### Executive Officers:

President - Barbara Isner  
Vice-President - Lucy Gale  
Treasurer - Aaron Konstam  
Secretary - Pending

*Congratulations on  
being elected to  
serve the Friends!*

+++++

#### Outgoing Members of the Board of Directors (Jan 2001 - Jan 2003 term):

Vera Banner  
Pat Brown  
Shirley Coleman  
Robert Harris  
Pat Mendiola  
Mary McVicker  
Linda Nairn

*Thank you for all  
your hard work and  
dedication!*

#### Continuing Members of the Board of Directors (Jan 2002 - Jan 2004 term):

Gerry Celitans  
Aaron Konstam  
Pat Konstam  
Yulanee McKnight  
Marti Nodine  
Ronnie Retzlöff  
Lucille Teeter  
James Wogstad

*You can do it! Just  
one more year!*

#### Board of Directors (Jan 2003 - Jan 2005 term):

Vera Banner  
Pat Brown  
Robert Harris  
Mary Jo Klingeman  
Lillian McPherson  
Linda Nairn  
Rowena Roby  
Pat Sharman

*Congratulations on  
being elected to  
serve on the Board of  
the Friends!*

+++++

#### Nominating Committee:

Marti Nodine, Chair  
Pat Brown  
Cathy Dean  
Lucy Gale  
Edith Hopfan

*Thanks for making  
all those phone calls.  
Couldn't have done it  
without you!*

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February 14, 2003

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
Texas State Representative, District \_\_\_\_  
[Address]  
[City, TX ZIP]

Dear Mr./Mrs.

On behalf of the San Antonio Public Library, I would like to voice my support of the Texas Library community in requesting the release of the 2003 Telecommunications Infrastructure Funds (TIF), already allocated in the current budget, to grantee libraries and other designated institutions in the State of Texas. I also support the reauthorization of TIF through 2009 with an increase of \$500M in funding.

TIF funding has already provided numerous benefits to the 1.4 million people living in San Antonio, Bexar County, and the twenty counties comprising the Alamo Area Library System. The funding has allowed our library to provide access to advanced telecommunications services and authoritative databases. We have also been able to provide updated training in the use of these technologies. TIF Funding has enabled the state of Texas to significantly narrow the "digital divide." Failing to release these funds for 2003 and failing to reauthorize TIF in its current form will quickly widen the gap that we have all worked so successfully to narrow.

The San Antonio Public Library has received three TIF grants totaling \$639,985. These grants have made it possible for us to do the following:

- ♦ upgrade 157 public access Internet computers and wiring at 14 branches to meet TIF and City standards;
- ♦ upgrade network equipment to support high bandwidth connections;
- ♦ install wireless area networks at nineteen library locations; and
- ♦ create three Mobile Training Labs equipped with wireless laptops and projection equipment, allowing us to provide Internet and computer training to customers at all library locations and the forty-five AALS member libraries.

The TIF-funded TexShare project has improved access to electronic resources. TexShare provides 60 databases covering a wide range of subject areas for all age groups. These databases are available not only to customers using library computers but also to customers using home and office computers 24 hours a day/7 days a week. TexShare has allowed the San Antonio Public Library alone to save more than \$170,000 in database licenses and redirect these funds to license databases of local interest and expand access to all library locations and remote users. Multiply these savings across the state, and you will understand the impact of TIF. In fact, the \$10.5M in TIF funds used to support TexShare has leveraged \$140M in value for every citizen in the state.

Local funding sources are adequate for maintaining the Library's technology infrastructure but do not provide enough revenue to allow us to upgrade equipment on a regular basis, keep up with technological advances, provide access to the content in over 60 databases, and offer new services. TIF allows us the opportunity to enhance our provision of electronic access and reliable information resources to our community, and supports our efforts to train staff and customers in the use of these invaluable resources. This access is a vital component of preparing an educated workforce throughout Texas.

The future will demand much from Texas and Texans. Education is the foundation of success, and education does not occur only in schools. TIF allows libraries of all types to meet the challenge of ever-changing technology and fulfill our mutual responsibilities to give Texans and Texas the skills to become and remain competitive.

Sincerely,

[Name of Board member]  
[Title if applicable]

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# BRANCH LEAVES

## (News from Support Groups)



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### Book Cellar

The Book Cellar's monthly topical clearance sales - involving biographies in January and literature in February - are continuing to be well-received by customers and successful in reducing excess inventory. Because of preparations for the big Annual Book Sale on March 28-30, the store won't hold a mark-down sale during March.

Two days of the week - Fridays and Sundays - are short on volunteers. The store needs one or two additional people who could work regularly on Fridays. Because many people are reluctant to commit every weekend, we're looking for volunteers who could work one Sunday a month. Even coming in after church and spending the afternoon in the store would help. Please call Book Cellar manager **Karen Atkinson** at 227-9519 if you'd like to give it a try. Store hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. We're fortunate to have a crew of Saturday regulars who keep the Book Cellar staffed on that day.

*Pat Konstam, Book Cellar correspondent*

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### Texana/Genealogy

The Friends of Texana/Genealogy will hold its next meeting on Monday, March 24 at 7:00 PM in the Central Library auditorium. **Michaele Haynes**, Curator of Anthropology at the Witte Museum, will entertain us with "All you ever wanted to know about Fiesta-and More!" This will get us in the mood for the annual revelry of Fiesta Week that will be here before we know it.

On a more serious note, the Friends of Texana/Genealogy will co-sponsor a symposium organized by the African American Genealogical and Historical Society-The "Underground Railroad" from Texas to Mexico. Among the panelists will be historians **Dr. Jerry Thompson** and **Dr. Ron Tyler** who have both published widely about Texas in the Civil War. The symposium will take place on Saturday, March 29, from noon to 3:00. Mark your calendars!

*Maria Watson Pfeiffer, President*

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### Westfall

The Friends of Westfall held their winter meeting on February 15. Following the business meeting, the members celebrated Black History Month by listening to some "tall tales" spun by **Mark Babino**, a member of the Texas Storytelling Association. Mark has visited many branches as part of the community cultural events sponsored by the San Antonio Public Library. We really enjoyed his stories.

We were saddened to learn that **Barbara Harris**, the first Library Manager at Westfall Branch Library, passed away on February 1, 2003. Barbara is remembered with love and admiration by the Westfall community.

The Westfall Teen Council, which includes Teen Friends, has started a community service program of providing homework help for students in grades 1 through 5 on Monday nights from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the library.

We applaud their efforts.

Monday, March 3, is the date for our Staff Appreciation Luncheon. **Rowena Rodgers** is chairman of the event, and she is collecting some very interesting recipes!

*Bettie Ward, President*

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### Writer Friends

The February 11, 2003, meeting of the Writer Friends was called to order by President **Barbara Stanush** with the aid of her antique potato masher, which was used to open the first meeting seven years ago.

Ms. Stanush introduced the new officers and board members and made the following announcements: a list of local writers can be found on the San Antonio Public Library web site the address of which is in the process of being changed and will be announced later. The next meeting will be May 13 at the Fiesta Trails Barnes & Noble located at IH 10 and DeZavala. She then introduced **Carol Coffee Reposa** to present our speaker **Melissa Fletcher Stoeltje**.

Ms. Stoleje holds a Bachelor's and a Master's degree from UTSA. Prior to coming to the *San Antonio Express-News*, she worked for the *San Antonio Light*, wrote features for a monthly newsletter of a local credit union, wrote for eight years for the *Houston Chronicle*, covered the UN Women's Conference in Beijing, China, and interviewed **Jimmy Carter**. She has won numerous awards, is married, and has one son.

"Being a columnist is like showing your underwear drawer in public," Stoeltje said. She doesn't have a journalism degree and admitted that inspiration for her columns comes at odd times. "Sometimes I think God talks to me through my hair dryer." If an idea comes to her while driving, she has to stop and write it down.

"You have to be passionate about your work. I write about things I care about." Her basic column themes are "respect for all people, caring for the poor, responsibility, and freedom." She considers herself "a very fortunate person" to have the job she has.

In a Question-and-Answer session, she said the "not-so-nice parts of my job are the hateful e-mails and phone calls and words taken out of context, but you have to stay open and learn from your readers."

With regard to her writing process. "I write for a 110 lines. The hardest part of the job is to whittle down. I do a lot of reading, Internet research, and talking to experts." She has three deadlines a week. "Some columns take two or three hours to write, others a longer time. Some days are easier than others." She doesn't write in advance. She has a clip file and jots down ideas and is more productive in the morning.

*Continued on page 5.*

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# Libraries I Have Known

Jacques Barzun

*Dr. Jacques Barzun, renown author, educator, and historian, received an Arts & Letters Award from the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library in November of 2000. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Barzun shared stories about his love for libraries, and although he no longer has a copy of the actual remarks, graciously agreed to write down some of those observations for us from his memory of the event.--Cathy Dean*

"I have been all my life a collector of libraries. Both because of my work as an historian and as a reader at large, I am drawn to libraries – as I am also to second-hand book stores. They deserve equally to be explored and understood in their individuality. No two libraries are alike, though the general public may think that stacks, catalogues – and books – make them all one species. Not at all. As in the world of living things, there are many varieties, and each specimen is distinct. And in libraries, all are good.

"Of course, for the greatest sense of comfort, one may when questioned think first of the huge treasure-houses, because they fulfill every wish – the British Museum (as it was called before it moved and changed its name to British Library); the Bibliothèque Nationale, the New York Public Library, the Library of Congress, the Bodleian. So the distinction among them is not the extent of their holdings but the convenience of the system, the beauty and the peace of the vast reading room, and the speed and courtesy of the service. Where there is no access to the stacks, dependence on the page boys – 'boys' anywhere from 18 to 80 years old – is a prime concern. In that respect, the British win hands down, and the French deserve to be sued.

"After the towering examples comes the middle-range library, such as the three fine ones we are blessed with in this city\* and that are to be found in a multitude of other busy centers throughout the world. The point of interest in these is: What does this one cover? A public library must think of the Common Reader, as Virginia Wolfe called the unspecialized seeker after pleasure and information. A college library and again a university library must think of well-defined groups of readers, these two types not being exactly alike: graduate students need rather more than the younger contingent.

"How does one judge coverage? By sampling the card catalogue – I was going to say "scanning" it, which nowadays would be misleading. For there has been upheaval in the catalogue room – the cards are out, the terminals are in, and there would be much to say about the effects of the change. Not all of them are good, although certain conveniences have been gained, such as access to the Internet, quick copying of articles, and the like. I am not yet sure whether the losses have been fully made up. For example, in the New York Public Library, the spacious catalogue room accommodated scores of readers using the cards simultaneously. Now the three dozen or so of machines create lines of standees, and the unlucky choice of a line can lead to a very long

wait. Again, a small library turns deaf and dumb when the single computer is down.

"After many years of collecting what may be called library experiences, the pleasure of *recollecting* them is for me attached to the very small libraries, those that house perhaps 1,500 books and being in a rural setting serve a district rather than any one town. There, I have found, the Librarian is always most welcoming, most cordial, most helpful– though I must say that as a group of professionals, librarians seem to me uncommonly competent and affable. (I do not call page boys librarians; they are pathetic in their indifference or hostility, and one wants to help *them* and expect no thanks.) In the small library, one makes amazing discoveries – rare books, manuscripts, paintings, artifacts that have been bequeathed by local worthies and are exhibited with pride and a full knowledge of their worth.

"In this great state, there is one small public library that I cherish. It is in Fort Davis, and it is lodged in the old jail, unchanged. The several types of books are nicely kept apart by the bars of the cells, and one has the unusual chance of hearing the iron door clang shut behind one when entering to look for Mark Twain or Dickens.

"I must end with a word about what I believe is the smallest library in this hemisphere – if it still exists after what must be a heroic fight against the forces of nature. It is in New England, and I do not want to divulge the place, lest it become a tourist attraction. Let me call the village Wildwood. The library stands on the outskirts, along a small stream; it consists of a large hut, perhaps 12 feet square, and as the stream is subject to flooding, a long chain around the hut and the nearest tree secures the library against floating out to sea. The collection is small but choice, and though accessible only on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, it is not to be sneezed at. I recall the most recent set of the *Britannica* and *The Varieties of Religious Experience* by William James. I recall also a heart-warming message on the highway nearby: 'You are entering Wildwood and are welcome to it.'"

\*Central Library (SAPL), UTSA, and Trinity.

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## Branch Leaves

*Writer Friends (Cont'd)*

Stoeltje's biggest concerns are a growing conformity and that people are having trouble speaking out more. "That worries and scares me. Fear is a pretty big emotion now in the country. To be a writer, you have to be open to the world. To be a columnist, you have to develop a thick skin. You have to take a risk."

After presenting a gift membership and a library commemorative poster to the speaker, the president adjourned the meeting.

*Junette Woller, Secretary*

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## Form for Gifts, Donations, and Memorials

Honor a loved one with a remembrance for birthdays, anniversaries, or "just because." It can also be a wonderful, thoughtful, and lasting way to honor the memory of a relative or friend.

If you do not want to make a contribution at this time, clip this form and save it for the appropriate occasion.

I would like to make the following donation:

- ☐ In honor of      ☐ In memory of
- ☐ Special event (birthday, graduation, etc.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (All donations are tax deductible.)

### Acknowledgement to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### My Name and Address:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out in full, make your check payable to:

*Friends of the San Antonio Public Library*

and mail to:

Friends of the San Antonio Public Library (FOSAPL)

P.O. Box 831174

San Antonio, Texas 78283-1174



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## FRIENDS of the SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Individual (Adult)      \$ 10

\_\_\_\_ Dual (Adult)      \$ 20

\_\_\_\_ Individual (Teen, Ages 13-18)      \$ 5

\_\_\_\_ Patron (Per Person)      \$ 50

\_\_\_\_ Contributing (Per Person)      \$100

\_\_\_\_ Life (Per Person)      \$250

\_\_\_\_ New Member

\_\_\_\_ Renewal

Branch Group \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Do not include my phone number in the Friends' directory.

\_\_\_\_ I'd like to volunteer at the Book Cellar (used book store).

\_\_\_\_ Please call me: I'd like to be an active participant.

**MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: Friends of the San Antonio Public Library (or FOSAPL).**

**Your contribution is tax deductible.**

*and mail to:*

*Friends of the San Antonio Public Library (FOSAPL)*

*P.O. Box 831174*

*San Antonio, Texas 78283-1174*

(Note: Membership is from Jan. 1—Dec. 31. Members receive a renewal notice in early Dec.)

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## MEMORIALS AND HONORS

### *IN MEMORY OF*

Mrs. Archie Reeves by Margaret Lecznar  
Julia Semmes by Pat McGiffert

### *IN HONOR OF*

Mike Greenberg (2003 Arts and  
Letters Award Recipient) by Ruth Binder

### *DONATIONS*

Manfred and Mary Jane Groth

## IS THIS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER?

If you have not renewed your membership for 2003, THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!

Second renewal notices were mailed in February. By March 1, all those who have not renewed their memberships for 2003 are removed from our membership list. Of course, if your renewal arrives after March 1, you will immediately be returned to our membership roster. If you are not certain of your membership status, please call me. We hope you will want to remain a Friend of the Library.

If you have misplaced your renewal envelope, you can pick one up at the library. If you don't see one out, ask for one at the desk.

***Ronnie Retzloff***, Membership Chair, 490-4337



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San Antonio, Texas 78283-1174

**Address Service Requested**

## CALENDAR OF BOOK SALES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

*Please refer to the Branch Leaves for support group meetings. It's a good idea to call and verify information before setting out for a meeting or program. Sometimes dates or times change after newsletter publication.*

- |             |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
| March 24    | 7:00 PM, Friends of Texana/Genealogy meeting, Central Library Auditorium  | <div>Central Library<br/>600 Soledad Street, 78205<br/>(210) 207-2534</div> |
| March 28–30 | Book Cellar's Annual Book Sale, days and times on page 1  |   |
| March 19    | <b>7:00 PM, Board Meeting, Central</b>  |   |
| March 26-31 | Schedule for Preparation and Actual Sale Dates – Book Cellar Annual Blockbuster Sale – Jim and Co. Need You! Note page 1. |   |

Please mark your calendars for all 2003 Board Meetings: March 19, May 21, July 16, September 17 and November 19.

\*Note: Each branch Friends group has a designated representative to the Board. However, these Board meetings are open to the general membership. All members are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.

## DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER COPY IS APRIL 15, 2003

Please mail your copy or disk (PC or Mac) formatted in Word to **Marti Nodine**, 10935 Whisper Valley, City 78230. Call at home (210) 492-2846. Email [martisatex@aol.com](mailto:martisatex@aol.com). Fax copy to 492-1604. Thanks for your continuing cooperation.—Marti